

2. (Amended) An end member for use with an implant for fusing bone comprising:

a1
a first portion with a top surface adopted and configured to engage the bone and having an edge and a first channel extending from the edge for receiving a surgical instrument;

a second portion configured and dimensioned to be inserted into a bore of the implant; and

a shoulder joining the first and second portions and sized to rest on an edge of the implant when the second portion is inserted in the bore of the implant, wherein the top surface further comprises a plurality of teeth provided in a two dimensional array with the teeth being spaced apart from one another for interlocking with the bone.

a2
19. (Amended) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member is made of a metal.

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Please cancel claims 22 and 23.

Please add the following new claim:

a3
24. (New) ~~The~~ The end member of claim 1 wherein the top surface has a length and the first channel extends continuously along the length.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, as amended, and new claim 24 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. A marked up version of the amended claims, showing insertions and deletions, is attached in the Appendix.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has required affirmation of election of one of three asserted patentably distinct species. In response, Applicants hereby affirm election of Species I as identified in the Office Action. Claims 1-21, as amended, and new claim 24 cover the elected species. In accordance with this election, Applicants have canceled claims 22 and 23. Applicants